Listing of Claims:

1. Cancelled.

2. (Previously Presented) A method for protecting data entry to a data entry device from eavesdropping, wherein a signature of data entry comprises a temperature differential in the data entry device from data entry by the user, comprising:

masking the signature of data entry resulting from entry of data by a user of the data entry device so as to reduce the detectability of the signature through eavesdropping by controlling the external temperature of the data entry device to reduce temperature differentials left in the data entry device by the user.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 2 wherein the data entry device is a keyboard.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 2 wherein the data entry device has external surfaces that are thermally conductive.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 2 wherein the data entry device has external surfaces that are thermally resistive.

6. (Original) A method according to Claim 2 wherein the step of controlling comprises the step of maintaining the external temperature in a range surrounding a predetermined setpoint.

7. (Original) A method according to Claim 6 wherein the step of maintaining the external temperature comprises the steps of:

monitoring the external temperature of the data entry device to provide a device temperature, and

adjusting the output of a temperature control mechanism responsive to the device temperature so as to maintain the device temperature at approximately the setpoint.

8. (Original) A method according to Claim 6 wherein the predetermined setpoint is between 35-40 °C.

9. (Original) A method according to Claim 2 wherein the controlling step comprises the step of controlling the external temperature utilizing conduction.

10. (Original) A method according to Claim 2 wherein the controlling step comprises the step of controlling the external temperature utilizing convection.

11. (Original) A method according to Claim 10 wherein the step of controlling the external temperature utilizing convection comprises blowing a stream of temperature-controlled air in proximity to the data entry device.

12. (Original) A method according to Claim 2 wherein the controlling step comprises the step of controlling the external temperature utilizing radiation.

13. (Original) A method according to Claim 12 wherein the step of controlling the external temperature utilizing radiation comprises emitting heat from an infrared-emitting lamp in proximity to the data entry device.

14. Cancelled.

15. (Previously Presented) A method for protecting data entry to a data entry device from eavesdropping, wherein a signature of data entry comprises sound waves emitted from the data entry device, comprising:

masking the signature of data entry resulting from entry of data by a user of the data entry device so as to reduce the detectability of the signature through eavesdropping by generating an interfering sound pattern so as to reduce the detectability of the sound waves.

16. (Original) A method according to Claim 15 wherein the step of generating comprises the steps of:

receiving the signature,

converting the signature to an electrical signal,

phase-shifting the electrical signal,

converting the phase-shifted electrical signal to an audio signal, and

emitting the audio signal in close proximity to the data entry device.

17. (Original) A method according to Claim 15 wherein the step of generating comprises emitting pre-recorded sounds.

18. (Original) A method according to Claim 17 wherein the pre-recorded sounds are recorded sounds of random input to the data entry device.

19. (Original) A method according to Claim 15 wherein the step of generating comprises providing background noise to mask the sound waves emitted from the data entry device.

20. (Original) A method according to Claim 19 wherein the background noise is provided by a blower.

21. (Original) A method according to Claim 20 wherein the blower blows a stream of temperature-controlled air in proximity to the data entry device controlling the external temperature of the data entry device to reduce temperature differentials left in the data entry device by the user.

22. (Previously Presented) A method for protecting data entry to a data entry device from eavesdropping, wherein a signature of data entry comprises sound waves emitted from the data entry device, comprising:

masking the signature of data entry resulting from entry of data by a user of the data entry device so as to reduce the detectability of the signature through eavesdropping by providing a sound-dampening device on the data entry device.

23-39. (Cancelled)